the Ifugaos an invention of their own? Their crude civilization would answer no. If not, what people introduced rice terraces worthy to be called the eighth wonder of the world? No one knows.

MANILA HEMP[2]

Abaca of Philippine growth has long been known to commerce as "Manila hemp." This was the magic name which first beckoned American ships to Manila. In those days the *abaca* (Manila-hemp) industry was a Philippine monopoly.

More recently *abaca* has had to meet keen competition with the result that the export of this product has dwindled in value from over 100,000,000 pesos ($50,000,000) in 1918 to 17,000,000 pesos ($8,500,000) in 1934.

Abaca is of indigenous origin. The Spaniards found the Filipinos cultivating the *abaca* plant for use in spinning and weaving. The fiber is the product of the plant which to the uninitiated is indistinguishable from the banana plant. Various regions, as the Bicol provinces on the southern end of the Island of Luzon, the Islands of Samar and Leyte, and portions of Mindanao, are especially adapted to the growth of *abaca.* Davao, a province of Mindanao, under the leadership of the Japanese leads in total output and in average production per acre. *Abaca* fiber for export is officially graded.

Abaca is admitted free of duty to the United States. However, the Philippine Commonwealth and Independence Law restricted importation of Philippine cordage to 3,000,000 pounds annually. The duty-free quota was doubled to 6,000,-

000 pounds by a special Congressional Act effective May *? J935> for a period of three years, with authority granted the President of the United States to extend the law for another three years. So *abaca* as a manufactured product occupies a relatively favored and sheltered position in the United

[2] **Section read by Mr. Mariano Garchitorena, Manager, Fiber Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture and Commerce.**